

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TRIBUTE TO SAM SIMMERMAKER

### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the long and distinguished career of one of my heroes in broadcasting, Sam Simmermaker.

For fifty years, Sam Simmermaker has been a fixture on the airwaves of WCSI/WKKG in my hometown of Columbus, Indiana. As the "Voice of High School Sports", Sam has amassed an extraordinary career over the last half century that deserves to be commemorated on the floor of the People's House.

Both graduates of Indiana University in Bloomington, Sam and his beloved wife Fran came to Columbus in December of 1959 for what they thought would be a brief stop on their way to St. Louis. Sam was and still is a diehard Cardinals fan and it was his dream to become the radio voice of that baseball team.

Thankfully, the Simmermakers never left our community in Eastern Indiana and on January 1, 2010, Sam will celebrate fifty years in broadcasting on WCSI.

The list of awards and recognitions that Sam Simmermaker has received is long and distinguished. In 1976 and 1997, Sam was chosen as the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters "Sportscaster of the Year."

He was inducted into the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Hall of Fame in 1998 and the Indiana Broadcast Association Hall of Fame a decade later.

One of the biggest awards that Sam Simmermaker received was his induction into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. In 2006, he joined the long list of legendary Hoosier basketball players and coaches as a St. Vincent Silver Medal Award winner.

Columbus High School basketball fans know him as the familiar voice of the Bull Dogs who for decades has brought a unique yet consistent style to a game that has evolved tremendously during his decades of service.

Listeners and fans alike can identify Sam by his trademark call—"Holy Cow!"—during his play-by-play call of local high school basketball, football and baseball games.

Aside from his professional role, Sam continues to be an active citizen in the community. He serves as a board member of the Columbus Fire Department's Cheer Fund and is a member of the First Christian Church.

Still an athlete, Sam can still be found playing first base in the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department's Old-Timer Slow Pitch Softball League.

Sam's long career has spanned many games over the last fifty years, but more importantly, it is a testament to his dedication to his community, friends and family.

Sam Simmermaker has become an icon in Columbus, Indiana and across its airwaves. To me, he will forever be a dear friend and mentor.

## HONORING MR. EDGAR H. LANCASTER, JR.

### HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of the life and achievements of Edgar H. Lancaster, Jr., who died on October 12, 2009, at the age of 91.

Lancaster was a graduate of Tallulah High School, Louisiana Tech University, and Louisiana State University School of Law. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II. Following his discharge, he returned to Louisiana to pursue his law degree, in which he actively practiced from 1948 until the time of his death.

Lancaster served in the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1952 to 1968, where he continued his service to his community and state. In this capacity, he also served as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and Speaker Pro Tempore.

Among his impressive list of endeavors, Lancaster also was an organizer of Southern National Bank at Tallulah, where he served on its Board of Directors, in addition to working as the bank's attorney.

For his remarkable life's work, Lancaster received numerous awards and distinctions. In 1986, the Louisiana Bar Foundation named him Attorney of the Year, and he was inducted into the LSU Law School Hall of Fame in 1987. He was appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court as the 6th Judicial District Judge Pro Tempore from 1992 to 1993, and served on the Louisiana Law Institute for over 50 years, also acting as past president and chairman emeritus of the Institute. Moreover, Lancaster was very involved in the Louisiana State Bar Association, where he served on both the Board of Governors and the Attorney Ethics Commission.

A devoted husband and father, Lancaster is survived by his lovely wife of sixty-five years, Beverly Vedros Lancaster, and their three children. They are also the proud grandparents to three grandsons.

A man of many dimensions, Lancaster was an avid golfer and an unofficial historian in his spare time.

It is my pleasure to honor the late Edgar H. Lancaster, a man who served the people of Madison Parish as well as the state of Louisiana for many years. His commitment, hard work and leadership warrant this laudable recognition.

## HONORING 373RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

SPEECH OF

### HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 7, 2009*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 940, a resolution recognizing and honoring the National Guard on the occasion of its 373rd anniversary. The National Guard has a rich and vital history of protecting our Nation, and I am proud to support this resolution honoring them.

I would like to thank Congressman LATTI for authoring this important resolution, and House Majority Leader STENY HOYER and Speaker NANCY PELOSI for their skill and leadership in bringing it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, since the attacks on September 11, 2001, hundreds of thousands of members of the Army and Air National Guard have been called upon by their States and the Federal Government to provide security at home and combat terrorism abroad. As a conferee on H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, I was proud to support the provision of \$200 million to support National Guard and Reserve military construction projects. The men and women of the National Guard make so many sacrifices to keep our Nation and its people safe, and we need to make sure they have the support and funding to perform their duties. This resolution recognizes and honors those sacrifices.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution thanking the members of the National Guard for their service and continued support, as well as expressing condolences and gratitude to the families of members of the National Guard who have lost their lives. I am proud to honor and support the compassionate, courageous, and dedicated members of the National Guard who serve a critical role in protecting the United States and its citizens' freedoms and treasured liberties.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 940.

## RECOGNIZING THE BLUEWATER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE BLUE RIBBON AWARD

### HON. HARRY TEAGUE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Bluewater Elementary School in Bluewater, New Mexico, for receiving the Blue Ribbon School Award awarded by the U.S. Department of Education for demonstrating academic excellence and dramatic gains in student achievement levels.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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